total capacity to 50000 MWe by 2032. However, achieving of such capacity will depend upon the developments in regard to international civil nuclear cooperation.

(c) The proposed capacity addition will supplement the efforts made in augmenting the power capacity by other conventional/non-conventional sources of power and help attainment of self-sufficiency in power production in the country.

Merchant Power Plants

267. SHRISITARAM YECHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow Merchant Power Plants' by accepting the proposal of captive blocks allotments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of captive coal block awarded so far and power generation added consequent to that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) In terms of the extant legal framework, a company engaged in generation of power is eligible to undertake coal mining operation for the purpose of captive use only. Therefore, merchant power plants also would be eligible to get coal blocks for captive use, provided they fulfil other requirements as per the extant guidelines in force.

(c) Out of 123 coal blocks allocated so far, 53 coal blocks have been allocated to Government/private companies for power generation. Total Geological Reserves of these blocks is 14558 million tonnes. Actual power generation from these coal blocks will depend upon the quality and quantity of extracted coal from these blocks.

Power generation by CIL

†268 SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. has any plan to step in the field of power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the units of the Coal India Ltd. which have been included in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited plans to enter into the field of power generation through joint venture as in the following cases.

(i) for a 1000 MW power project with Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and Northern Coalfields Limited.

(ii) for a 1000 MW power project with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited (UPRVNL) and Northern Coalfields Limited.

(iii) for a power plant with Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Orissa.

Northern Coalfields Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, both subsidiaries of Coal India Limited are included in the scheme.

Permission for selling imported coal

†269. DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite availability of 253 billion tonnes of coal reserves in the country, a proposal of Coal India Limited to grant permission for selling imported coal to meet demand in the domestic market is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Coal India Limited enjoys monopoly in coal mining in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for granting permission to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.